



**Survey of Health,
Ageing and
Retirement in
Europe**

No 5 (December 2009)

SHARE Newsletter

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Editorial

Dear readers,

the end of 2009 is approaching and we want to use the opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas and a good start into 2010.

For SHARE it has been another year full of new activities and events. The third wave of data collection (SHARELIFE) was finished in summer while preparations for the fourth wave kept us busy throughout the year. In October the Second International SHARE User Conference in Mainz showed us once more what a rich and exciting database SHARE is. The call for papers was answered by many scientists working with SHARE data and allowed us to set up an agenda with a broad interdisciplinary range of presentations from all topics included in the survey.

Another big step for SHARE was made at the SHARE-ESFRI Conference in July. With the ratification of a Memorandum of Understanding SHARE member countries stated their future support for the project and brought SHARE closer to its goal of becoming an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium). This process will give SHARE the long-term stable financing framework that is so much needed for a research infrastructure. SHARE is one of the first projects to become an ERIC and to use the

opportunities provided by this new European framework.

With Estonia, Hungary, Luxemburg and Portugal we welcome four new countries, which will collect their first data next year. Besides the pleasure of this further expansion and becoming SHARE-ERIC, I am sure that 2010 will bring us many new and interesting experiences, incentives and successes. We are looking forward to 2010!

With my best wishes,
Prof. Axel Boersch-Supan, Ph.D.

2nd International SHARE User Conference

In October more than 60 researchers from all over Europe and the US met at the second SHARE User Conference in Mainz to discuss their results based on SHARE as well as the ELSA and HRS sister surveys. The presentations from various fields and disciplines provided a wide range of new insights into European ageing...

...social networks and resources do not only affect health positively but also predict mortality....the perceived quality of social relations is higher in the European North than in the South...the use of intestinal screenings differs substantially between countries and predicts incidents as well as deaths...women expect to die earlier than they actually do...people who retire experience severe mental decline independent from their age...the taller, the higher the income – even in older age...

...to indicate just a few of the broad research possibilities SHARE offers.

We want to thank all users and supporters for their engagement and a great conference!

SHARE Research in Progress

Prof. Howard Litwin on studying the acceptance of delayed retirement in Israel

- *Could you give us a short overview of the Israeli pension system?*
Israeli pensions are based mainly on a two-tiered system. The first tier constitutes a pay-as-you-go state plan, which guarantees a universal flat-rate pension. The second tier consists of the occupational earnings-related pension arrangements, which are anchored in collective (or individual) labour agreements, and the budgetary pension scheme of the public sector. Up to the mid-1990s, such occupational pensions were administered almost entirely through defined-benefit-oriented pension funds under the auspice of the Histadrut, the General Federation of Workers. Most of the defined-benefit pension funds suffered from a substantial cumulative actuarial deficit, which led to the need for reform. After a first reform in 1995 a second reform, initiated in 2003-04, was aimed at strengthening the financial soundness of the pension funds. Among the measures adopted was a gradual rise in the age of retirement for all workers in relation to both pension tiers. The retirement age for men thus rises from 65 to 67 by the year 2009, and from age 60 to 64 for women by the year 2017.
- *You inquired about the acceptance of this delay. How did you do that?*
Israel joined the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) in 2005. In order to

examine the public's reaction to the legislated delay of retirement age in Israel, questions about the legislation were added to the drop-off questionnaire. This unique confluence of the Israeli reform, on the one hand, and the initiation of the SHARE project, on the other hand, provided a unique opportunity to analyse the correlates of concurrence with deferred retirement. To the best of our knowledge, this is the only analysis to draw upon a wide range of factors in order to examine the correlates of agreement with delayed retirement among older workers.

- *Which factors did you take into account for your inquiry?*
The literature identifies five groups of variables that can explain the willingness of people to adopt delayed retirement. These include differences in socio-demographic characteristics, health conditions that might affect employability, job-related characteristics and work environment, political ideology or welfare state orientation and opinions regarding the societal consequences of this reform. Each of these factors is incorporated into the analytic model which is employed in our inquiry.

For a detailed description of the sample and the results please consult: Litwin, H., L. Achdut, and I. Youssim. (2009). Who Supports Delayed Retirement? A Study of Older Workers in Israel. *Journal of European Social Policy* 19(3): 245-57.

SHARE Data Updates and Alerts

Release 2.3.0 and Documentation are now available on the website.
What is new in Release 2.3.0?

- Imputations for wave 2
- New imputations for wave 1
- Longitudinal weights and new structure of weights files
- Generated health variables added for wave 2
- Generated health variables revised for wave 1

Registered SHARE users can access the data with their current login code and password. New users have to register only once. The login code and password are valid for all subsequent releases and future waves of data. You can download the data via the SHARE website.

Presentation of the SHARE Crew

SHARE is a steadily growing project with more and more countries joining the survey. More countries means more data to be cleaned. In Mannheim, where the project's central co-ordination is located, a team of 6 people is continuously working for the high quality of the data releases. Two of them are Sabrina Zuber and Julie Korbmacher.

Julie Korbmacher

studied social sciences at the University of Mannheim until 2008. Since October 2008 she has been a member of the research unit SHARE at MEA. She is responsible for data management. Her main research

interests are family sociology and labour market.



Sabrina Zuber

studied social sciences at the university of Mannheim. She wrote her diploma thesis at the department for statistics and methods of social science. Since January 2008 she has been a member of the research unit SHARE at MEA. She is responsible for data management. Her main research interests are labour market research and survey methods.



Selection of latest SHARE based publications

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